Bill No. 46 of 2023

THE COMPULSORY TEACHING OF ILL-EFFECTS OF DRUG ADDICTION IN SCHOOLS BILL, 2023

By

SHRI DILIP SAIKIA, M.P.

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to provide for compulsory teaching of ill-effects of drug addiction in schools and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-fourth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (*I*) This Act may be called the Compulsory Teaching of Ill-effects of Drug Addiction in Schools Act, 2023.

Short title and commencement.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

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Definitions.

- 2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—
- (a) "Advisory Council" means the Advisory Council for teaching ill-effects of Drug Addiction constituted under section 6;
- (b) "appropriate Government" means in the case of a State, the Government of State and in all other cases, the Central Government;

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- (c) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.
- (d) "School" means a primary or a middle or a secondary or a senior secondary level school imparting education to children, by whatever name such institution is called.

Compulsory teaching of ill-effects of Drug Addiction in schools. **3.** From such date, as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette specify, that ill-effects of drug addiction shall be taught as a compulsory subject in all schools from such class onwards as may be determined by the Central Government on the recommendation of Advisory Council constituted under section 6.

Appropriate Government to issue directions for compulsory teaching of ill-effects of drug addiction in schools. **4.** The appropriate Government shall immediately after issuance of the notification under section 3, issue directions for compulsory teaching about the ill-effects of drug addiction in schools within its jurisdiction.

Appointment of Teachers.

5. Subject to such rules, as may be prescribed, the appropriate Government shall ensure appointment of such number of teachers with such qualifications, as may be specified, for teaching about the ill-effects of drug addiction in schools.

Constitution of Advisory Council.

- 6. (1) The Central Government shall, within three months of the coming into force of this Act, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute an Advisory Council for teaching ill-effects of drug addiction.
- (2) The Advisory Council shall consist of such number of persons, having special knowledge or practical experience in the field of dealing with drug addiction or narcotics, as the Central Government may deem fit.

Functions of Advisory Council teaching ill-effects of drug addiction.

- 7. The Advisory Council shall perform the following functions, namely:—
- (a) recommend to the Central Government the syllabus for teaching about the ill-effects of drug addiction for each class;

(b) recommend to the Central Government the class from which the subject of the ill-effects of drug addiction is to be taught in schools;

- (c) recommend to the appropriate Government the qualifications of teachers to be appointed in schools for teaching the subject of ill-effects of drug addiction;
- (d) recommend to the appropriate Government the institutions which may be given recognition for training of teachers teaching ill-effects of drug addiction for the purpose of their appointment in schools; and

- (e) co-ordinate with the appropriate Government and the school authorities with a view to ensuring effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.
- **8.** The appropriate Government shall derecognize such schools, which do not comply with the provisions of section 4, after giving such institutions a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

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Derecognition of schools for non-compliance of the provisions of the Act.

9. The Central Government shall, after due appropriation made by law by Parliament in this behalf, provide adequate funds to the States for carrying out the purpose of this act.

Central Government to provide funds.

10. The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.

Overriding effects of the Act.

11. (*I*) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Power to make rules.

(2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both the Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under the rule.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The increasing drug addiction among children has become a serious problem in the country. These days even small children are falling in the trap of drugs. Till now it was believed that the children of the poor sections who do not go to school, usually the children who lead a nomadic life in railway stations, bus stops or other places get addicted to drugs but now even the children of elite families are also vulnerable. Sometimes due to craze of fashion and some other time on the instigation of friends, these innocent children get trapped in the vortex of drug substances. According to a survey by the Government of India, about 1.8 crore children and adolescents in the age group of 10 to 17 years, consume a variety of intoxicants including alcohol, opium, cocaine, cannabis (bhang). Financially prosperous children are consuming heroin, opium, cocaine, brown sugar etc. On the other hand, poor children starting from beedi, liquor, cigarette go on to consume charas, ganja, cannabis (bhang), opium, cough syrup etc.

No one in the society respects the person who is a drug-addict. Drug-addict person quarrels with his family members after getting intoxicated, due to which the atmosphere of the house becomes vitiated. Its biggest impact is seen on the education of children.

Therefore, children should be specially taught in schools about the bad consequences of drugs by including these in the curriculum so that they can keep themselves aloof from the bad addiction of drugs.

Hence this Bill.

New Delhi; January 19, 2023 **DILIP SAIKIA**

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 5 of the Bill provides for appointment of teachers in all schools. Clause 6 provides for constitution of Advisory Council for teaching ill-effects of drug addiction by the Central Government. Clause 9 provides for payment of adequate funds to the State for carrying out the purposes of the Act. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. However, it is estimated that a recurring expenditure of about rupees one hundred crore will be involved per annum from the Consolidated Fund of India.

A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees one hundred crore is also likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 11 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purpose of the Bill. As the rules will relate to matters of detail only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

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